# Man sentenced for stalking couple and peering into bedroom window in Cowdenbeath



In a troubling case from Fife, a man has been sentenced for his disturbing behaviour of stalking, leading to public outcry over issues of personal safety and privacy. Sam Tognarelli, aged 32, was found guilty of repeatedly peering into the bedroom window of a couple in Cowdenbeath during late-night hours. His behaviour was brought to light when a vigilant neighbour captured his actions on her home CCTV.

The court heard that between October 6 and 15, Tognarelli engaged in a series of incursions into the couple's back garden, where he not only loitered but also urinated against their home. Most alarmingly, he was documented peering into their bedroom, an act that drew immediate concern from the couple after they were alerted by the neighbour’s footage. This surveillance allowed them to confront Tognarelli directly, which eventually led to his arrest, as well as exposure to the harsh realities of such intrusive acts.

During the court proceedings at Dunfermline Sheriff Court, depute fiscal Brogan Moffat provided details of Tognarelli's unwarranted visits. The couple involved were completely unaware of Tognarelli prior to this incident, illustrating how easily individuals can fall victim to stalking and voyeuristic behaviour. According to Moffat, the neighbour initially observed Tognarelli’s suspicious activity and later discovered through the CCTV that this was not an isolated event but rather a pattern of behaviour occurring repeatedly over the days leading up to his arrest.

Tognarelli, representing himself in court, offered no substantial defence and claimed, rather unconvincingly, that he was out for night walks and looking after his aunt’s house while she was away. Such justifications were dismissed by the court, particularly as the evidence contradicted his narrative, revealing that he preferred to drive to the area rather than walk.

Sheriff Susan Duff sentenced Tognarelli to a community payback order requiring 150 hours of unpaid work, a sentence that reflects the seriousness of his actions while also taking into account the need for rehabilitation. This case has reignited discussions around the safety of home environments and the alarming trend of voyeuristic incidents in society.

This incident is not isolated; a different case in Fife involved a pensioner, Christopher Tognarelli, also sentenced for making sexualised gestures towards his neighbour. This series of incidents highlights a concerning pattern of inappropriate behaviours within the community, prompting authorities to reassess how these offences are reported and managed. It raises questions about protective measures for potential victims and how communities can engage more actively in safeguarding one another.

As voyeurism and stalking incidents continue to adversely affect the sense of security in residential areas, this case serves as a reminder of the importance of vigilance and the role that technology—like CCTV—can play in bringing such predatory behaviour to light. Communities must remain vigilant and proactive in addressing these violations of privacy to ensure the safety of all residents.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: (1), (2)
2. Paragraph 2: (1), (2)
3. Paragraph 3: (1)
4. Paragraph 4: (1)
5. Paragraph 5: (1), (3)
6. Paragraph 6: (4)
7. Paragraph 7: (1)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5246303/peeping-tom-fife-windows-peed-house/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5246303/peeping-tom-fife-windows-peed-house/> - A Fife man, Sam Tognarelli, was sentenced for stalking after repeatedly peering into a couple's bedroom window in Cowdenbeath. The behavior was exposed when a neighbor spotted him on her home CCTV. Tognarelli admitted to the offenses and was given a community payback order with 150 hours of unpaid work.
3. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5110003/pensioner-sexualised-gestures-cctv-fife-neighbour-row/> - Christopher Tognarelli, a 77-year-old Fife pensioner, was fined £400 and banned from contacting his neighbor for three years after making 'sexualised gestures' 49 times in a month. The incidents were captured on the neighbor's CCTV, leading to his arrest and sentencing.
4. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/tag/voyeur/> - A collection of articles from The Courier covering various voyeurism cases in Fife, including incidents involving hidden cameras, upskirting, and other forms of privacy invasion. The articles detail the legal proceedings and outcomes of these cases.
5. <https://www.wisn.com/article/wauwatosa-teens-set-up-sting-operation-to-catch-peeping-tom-1496190030/9953267> - In Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, a group of teenagers set up a sting operation to catch a man who had been peering into a 15-year-old girl's bathroom window. They recorded the suspect using a camera pole to look inside, leading to his arrest and potential felony charges.
6. <https://abc7news.com/nfl-player-tackles-peeing-tom-peeping-tackle-tony-beckham/5094805/> - Former NFL player Tony Beckham tackled a man who was peering into his daughter's bedroom window in Florida. The suspect, Geoffrey Cassidy, was arrested but denied the allegations, claiming his car had broken down in the area.
7. <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/peeping-tom-enters-guilty-plea-in-secret-camera-case/7080376> - Michael McKenny, 42, pleaded guilty to secretly videotaping two female coworkers in their Ellicott City condo over several months. The case was exposed when McKenny's own image was captured on one of the hidden cameras, leading to his arrest and sentencing.